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Contact: Tracy Baynard
McGuireWoods Consulting, LLC
Phone: 703-712-5083
Cell: 703-402-2359
Email: tbaynard@mwcllc.com

Clark-Shirley HOV/HOT Lane Proposal Adds Additional Ramp to Fix Current HOV Lanes Congestion at Route 234

New slip ramp between Route 234 and Route 619 will spread out southbound HOV traffic merge and alleviate congestion

Lorton, VA -- Today, the Clark-Shirley Team presented its detailed proposal to address the growing congestion in the I-95/I-395 corridor to the Dumfries Town Council at a special meeting called to introduce the proposal to the community. The Clark-Shirley solution, known as 95 Express, provides financial and transportation infrastructure support for expanding and extending HOV/HOT lanes and the existing rail and bus/carpool transit systems already operating in the I-95/I-395 corridor.

"We know from personal experience that the current bottleneck at Route 234 is created by the nexus of HOV traffic, general purpose lanes and Route 234 travelers exiting onto southbound I-95 in a small space," noted Michael Post, President of Shirley Contracting. "In order to fix that problem, one of the first construction projects our team will undertake is to create a better system for HOV/HOT commuters merging into the general purpose lanes to eliminate the back-up that mars every afternoon commute today."

The Clark-Shirley detailed proposal has an interim solution to address the serious congestion in the southbound HOV lanes and general purpose lanes in the Dumfries area. These improvements will be available to drivers prior to completion of work to expand the existing two HOV lanes to three HOV/HOT lanes.

- Extend the existing two HOV lanes over Quantico Creek on an existing unused bridge structure in the median of I-95 southbound.
- A new slip ramp from the HOV lanes to I-95 will be constructed between Quantico Creek and Route 619 (Exit 150).

The additional slip ramp and short extension of HOV lanes will more evenly distribute traffic on I-95 and improve merging operations at the southern end of the HOV lanes.

“This project requires no new right-of-way purchase and we can start construction activities as soon as our financing closes, which could be March 2007. All drivers will see benefits as soon as the new slip ramp and short HOV lane extension is completed,” said Mr. Post.

Other improvements likely to benefit commuters in Dumfries and southern Prince William County are the extension of the HOV/HOT lanes (both in 3 lanes and 2 lanes sections) towards Fredericksburg and the construction of new entrance and exit points to and from the HOV/HOT lanes near Dale City and Opitz Boulevard. These new access points will significantly improve access for commuters moving between areas within Prince William County.

Other benefits of the Clark-Shirley detailed proposal for the corridor include:

- More than \$500 million invested in transit improvements during the project's life, including an initial investment in the Virginia Railway Express to increase their capacity by 50% in the corridor and the construction of over 2,000 park and ride spaces to support existing bus operators, carpools, and vanpools.
- Extend and expand existing HOV lanes to Falmouth which will facilitate efforts to serve the growing number of residential and employment centers by bus.
- Constructing additional lanes on I-95 between Route 17 and Route 1 that will be open to all users at no cost.
- Adding a southbound two-lane collector-distributor network between Route 17 and Route 3 to benefit local commuters.
- Constructing Phase 8 of the Springfield Interchange project (freeing up \$85 million previously allocated by VDOT).
- No public funding as the project is 100 percent privately funded and does not use any programmed Virginia or Federal funds.
- Extensive team experience including the most experienced HOT lane designers and operators in the United States.

The 95 Express solution continues the HOV-3 concept of allowing 3-passenger vehicles, buses and emergency vehicles to travel in the corridor free at all times. Low Occupancy Vehicles (LOVs) with fewer than three (3) passengers will have the option of using the HOV/HOT lanes by paying a toll based on time-of-day pricing. By adding additional lane capacity to the existing HOV network and actively managing prices, a free-flow experience for HOV users will be maintained and enforcement will be enhanced.

Additional information about the Clark-Shirley proposal, including an 8-minute video describing the team's easy to understand and innovative approach can be found at www.95express.com.